

OVERWHELMED

WHEN JOY & BALANCE DEPART FROM LIFE

“THE VALUE OF VACATION”

Ecclesiastes 3:11-13 - May 3, 2015

Message 4 of 4 in “Overwhelmed: When the Joy and Balance Depart from Life”

Ecclesiastes 3:11-13 —“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.”

Christian Priorities:

1. Relationship with God.
2. Relationship with spouse.
3. Relationship/Responsibilities to children.
4. Responsibilities at work and home.
5. Relationships with strong friends.
6. Your health.
7. Your hobbies or your enjoyment.

The busyness of our lives can keep us from the most important things in life if we don't live _____¹

There are 3 biblical routines that provide time for us to accomplish God's goals for our lives... IF we will learn and embrace them.

1. Evenings: Depart Daily.
2. Sabbaths: Withdrawal Weekly.
3. Feast Weeks: Abandon Annually.

The Value of Vacation

Festival of Unleavened Bread [Passover]

A 7-day Festival celebrating the Israeli New Year and Passover.

Festival of the Harvest [Pentecost]

A 1-Day Festival celebrating the beginning of the Harvest.

Festival of Ingathering [Tabernacles]

An 8-Day Festival celebrating the end of the Harvest. **Leviticus 23:33-39**

FIRST THINGS FIRST: God is a God of _____² work.

ALSO: God is a God of _____³ expectations.

1. The power of a _____⁴.

While not all the Jewish festivals lasted an entire week, all of them required a _____⁵.

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Don't underestimate the word _____⁶.

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me."

before – Besides, in addition to, in place of, that take priority over.

The power of the trip is often the power of _____⁷, not the power of the _____⁸.

If we stop to get away from all the things in life that are distracting us from connecting with God and family even for a few days, we can _____⁹ with our priorities in a powerful way!

2. Understand your _____¹⁰ of life.

God asked his people to take their trips _____¹¹ their busy seasons of life, not _____¹² them.

God asked his people to live within a yearly routine that was pretty _____¹³.

QUESTION: Do you _____¹⁴ enough to think a year at a time?

REALIZE: The purpose of the festivals was _____¹⁵ and an expression of _____¹⁶, not hibernation and a spirit of dissatisfaction.

3. Make vacation a part of every _____¹⁷.

When God gave to the people of Israel they would always set a _____¹⁸ aside for offerings and for the festivals.

QUESTION: What is a biblically satisfying life, according to God's priorities, worth to you?

ADDITIONAL NOTES _____

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Answers: ¹purposefully, ²hard, ³realistic, ⁴trip, ⁵trip, ⁶before, ⁷awareness, ⁸actual, ⁹reconnect, ¹⁰seasons, ¹¹around, ¹²during, ¹³standard, ¹⁴care, ¹⁵celebration, ¹⁶gratitude, ¹⁷paycheck, ¹⁸little

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